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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in response to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-11, drawn to a process for producing a fuel electrode.

Group II, claim(s) 12-27, drawn to a process for producing a fuel electrode.

Group III, claim(s) 30-33, drawn to a fuel electrode.

The inventions listed as Groups I, II, and III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: they do not share the same special technical feature of the fuel electrode of group III which is that it contains cerium oxide that contains a divalent or trivalent metal dissolved therein and has electronic conductivity in a fuel electrode operating atmosphere.

During a telephone conversation with J. Georg Seka on October 19, 2000 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group II, claims 12-27.

Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 1-

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11 and 30-33 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven H VerSteeg whose telephone number is (703) 305-4473. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Thursdays from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen, can be reached on (703) 308-3322. The official fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are

After Final Faxes: (703) 305-3599

All Other Faxes: (703) 305-7718.

Faxes received after 4 P.M. will not be processed until the following business day.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

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